

HEARING IN COLOR: SPIRITUALS & JUSTICE

My Soul's Been Anchored
Moses Hogan

North Shore Baptist Church
Chancel Choir

Lord, How Come Me Here
Evelyn Simpson-Curenton
arr. LaRob Payton

North Shore Baptist Church
Chancel Choir ft. Joelle Lamarre

Dream Portraits
Margaret Bonds

Leah Dexter, Mezzo Soprano

"Over My Head" (I Hear Music)
arr. LaRob Payton

Leah Dexter, Mezzo Soprano

Lyric String Quartette
William Grant Still

Chicago Solisti

Oh, Freedom
Shawn E. Okpebholo

LaRob Payton, Bass-Baritone

Keep on Travelin, Soldier
Rollo Dilworth

North Shore Baptist Church
Chancel Choir

Come Down Angels
Undine Smith Moore

Joelle Lamarre, Soprano

Toccata: Ride on, King Jesus
John Daniels Carter

Joelle Lamarre, Soprano

The Battle of Jericho
Moses Hogan

North Shore Baptist Church
Chancel Choir

- INTERMISSION -

Adrian Dunn & the Adrian Dunn Singers

Hearing in Color is a concert series aimed at highlighting music and composers who are often underrepresented in the larger musical world. Hearing in Color is dedicated to exposing our community to emerging artists, and shining light on cultural issues through the performance of music by composers of color. Hearing in Color believes in the power of music to comfort, embolden, and inspire in the face of subjugation and oppression. This performance is presented by North Shore Baptist Church and Produced by LaRob K. Payton in partnership with Scapi Magazine.

Please silence cellphones. No unauthorized photography, audio or video recording

ABOUT NORTH SHORE BAPTIST CHURCH

North Shore Baptist Church is a multi-racial, multi-language, inclusive community of faith. For over one hundred years, North Shore Baptist Church has welcomed, in the name of Christ, neighbors who have come to Chicago from all over the world. The result is a multicultural community that worships in four languages and is committed to our city and its needs. We are freedom-loving Baptists who respect and nurture each individual's unique journey toward God. Whether you have come to Chicago from the Philippines, Texas, Colombia, Puerto Rico, Milwaukee, Germany, Japan, Burma or have lived here all your life...you are warmly invited to grow in Christ and serve God with us.

We're probably not what you think of when you hear "Baptist Church." We don't tell you what you must believe, or offer simple answers to life's tough questions. Instead, we are deeply rooted in the good news of God's love shown in Jesus Christ, and find in that foundation the strength and guidance we need to live in today's world. For generations the people of North Shore have wrestled with the challenging issues of the day and responded in faithful, progressive, and even surprising ways. As a result, North Shore Baptist Church is...

A multicultural Christian community

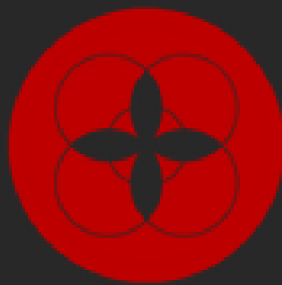
Engaged with the city

Serving God around the world

Inviting others on a journey of faith

Check out www.northshorebaptist.org to learn more!

We hope you will join us tomorrow as we draw on the inspiration and connection of this concert and live into those above stated values.



NORTH SHORE BAPTIST CHURCH

NEXT UP:

SEEING CLEARLY: SHINING A LIGHT ON INEQUALITY AND INJUSTICE

Sunday, February 3rd noon-3:00 p.m.

Lunch and childcare provided

Keynote by Rev. Dr. Marie Onwubuariri

1-2:30 Workshops

"Let's Talk About Race: Where to Begin" – Rev. Dr. Marie Onwubuariri, American Baptist Churches USA

"Resurgence of White Supremacy in 21st Century America – Rev. Janette Wilson, Rainbow/PUSH Coalition

"Empowered to Connect & Heal" – Naw Paw Say Ku, Heartland Alliance's Refugee and Immigrant Community Services

HEARING IN COLOR: SPIRITUALS & JUSTICE

MY SOUL'S BEEN ANCHORED IN THE LORD

In the Lord My soul's been anchored
Before I'd stay in Hell one day
I'd sing and pray myself away
Gone shout and pray and never stop
Until I reach the mountain top
My soul's been anchored in the Lord

Do you love him? (Oh yes)
Do you love him? (Hallelujah!)
God almighty! (Are you anchored?)
Are you anchored? (Oh yes!)
Yes my soul's been anchored in the Lord
Yes, Will you serve him?(Oh yes)
Will you praise him?
Lord I'm anchored (oh yes)
Lord I love you (oh yes)
Yes I'll serve you (Oh yes)
Lord I'll praise you (Oh yes)
Hallelujah!

My soul's been anchored in the Lord
God Almighty my soul's been anchored in the Lord!

LORD, HOW COME ME HERE?

Lord, how come me here? I wish I never was bo'n*.
Dere ain't no freedom here, Lord. I wish I never was bo'n
Dey treat me so mean here, Lord. I wish I never was bo'n
Dey sol' my chi'rren away, Lord! I wish I never was bo'n!

THREE DREAM PORTRAITS

MINSTREL MAN

Because my mouth is wide with laughter and my throat
is deep with song
You do not think I suffer after I have held my pain so long.
Because my mouth is wide with laughter,
you do not hear my inner cry
Because my feet are gay with dancing you do not know I die.

DREAM VARIATION

To fling my arms wide in some place in the sun,
To wheel and to dance till the white day is done,
Then rest at cool evening beneath a tall tree
while night comes on gently dark like me,
That is my dream,
To fling my arms wide in the face of the sun,
Dance! Whirl!
Whirl till the quick day is done,
Rest at pale evening. A tall, slim tree
Night coming tenderly, black like me.

I, TOO

I, too sing America,
I am the darker brother,
They send me to eat in the kitchen when company comes;
But I laugh and eat well and grow strong!
Tomorrow I'll sit at the table when company comes,
Nobody'll dare say to me "Eat in the kitchen" then,
Besides they'll see how beautiful I am and be ashamed.

OH, FREEDOM

Oh, freedom, oh, freedom over me.
And before I'd be a slave, I'll be buried in my grave.
And go home to my Lord and be free.
No more mournin'. There'll be no more mournin'.
Oh, no more mournin' over me.
And before I'd be a slave I'll be buried in my grave.
No more crying. No more crying
Lord, there'll be no more crying over me.
And before I'd be a slave, I'll be buried in my grave.
And be home with Lord and be free.
There'll be singin'! There'll be shoutin'! There'll be glory!
Oh, freedom over me.
And, before I'd be a slave I'll be buried in my grave.
And be home with my Lord and be free.

KEEP ON TRAVELIN', SOLDIER

Keep on travelin,' soldier,
Keep your hand on the plow
Don't you give up now!
You just keep holdin' on until you reach that Heavenly home.
You've got to keep on travelin' on
Early in the mornin' when I rise, I pray for strength to run this race.
And late in the ev'nin' when I close my eyes I thank the Lord for mercy and grace.
When I am upon the battlefield, I ask the Lord to take my hand
And I pray that the Lord will be my sword and shield and lead me to that Heavenly
land.

COME DOWN, ANGELS

Come down, angels, a trouble the water, Let God's saints come in

I love to shout I love to sing, Let God's saints a come in

I love to praise my heavenly King, Let God's saints a come in

I think I hear the sinner say, "Let God's saints a come in"

My savior taught me how to pray, Let God's saints a come in

Down, down trouble the water, Let God's saints a come in.

RIDE ON, KING JESUS

Ride on King Jesus, no man can a-hinder me.

Ride on King Jesus, ride on, no man can a hinder me

He is King of Kings, He is Lord of Lords.

Jesus Christ, first and last, no man works like him.

King Jesus rides a milk white horse, no man works like him.

The river of Jordan He did cross, no man works like him.

Ride on King Jesus, no man can a hinder me.

Ride on King Jesus, ride on, no man can a hinder me.

Ride on, Ride! No man can a-hinder me!

THE BATTLE OF JERICHO

Joshua fit the Battle, yes, the Battle of Jericho,

and the walls come a tumbalin' down.

Talk about your kings of Gideon, talk about your men of Saul

but none like good old Joshua at the Battle of Jericho.

Right up to the walls of Jericho, he marched with spear in hand.

"Go blow that ram-horn!" Joshua cried. "Cause the battle am in my hand"

God Almighty! Then the lamb, ram, sheep horns begin to blow and the trumpet

begins to sound

Joshua commanded the children to shout! and the walls come a tumbalin' down.

Oh, Lord, you know that Joshua fit the Battle, yes, the Battle of Jericho

and the walls come tumbalin' down!



JOELLE LAMARRE

**SOPRANO, ACTRESS,
PLAYWRIGHT**

Joelle Lamarre has been described as a singer of astounding vocal power. She recently presented a work of her own, *The Violet Hour*; at the University of Notre Dame and the Rochester Fringe Festival (respectively). *The Violet Hour* explores the career of internationally acclaimed operatic soprano, Leontyne Price. Joelle is also known in New Music for her role in George Lewis' opera, *Afterwords*, written to commemorate the 50th anniversary of the Association of the Advancement of Creative Musicians (AACM). She played the lead role in *Harriet Tubman, When I Crossed That Line to Freedom* with the South Shore Opera Company, earning praise for her performance as one with "guts and remarkable power."

As a guest alum, she played the role of Sister Rose, in Northwestern's premiere of *Dead Man Walking*. Joelle joined with Charles Gaines in LA's RedCAT museum to perform his work, *Manifestos 2*. With the Lyric Opera of Chicago Joelle debuted as Lady on the Levee in *Show Boat* and of Lily in Gershwin's *Porgy and Bess*. Ms. Lamarre is known for her extensive background in musical theater; those Chicago credits include; her debut as Madame de la Grand Bouche in *Beauty and the Beast* with the Chicago Shakespeare Theater; Lily in *Porgy in Bess* with Court Theatre; and Aunt Elizabeth in *The Nativity* with Goodman Theatre, Congo Square Theatre collaboration; and Universal Studios of Japan. Her awards include the BRAVO award from the Bel Canto Foundation, the Annemarie Gerts Award from the Musicians Club of Women, several vocal scholarships from The VOICE Experience Foundation and she is most recently a 3Arts Make a Wave Awardee. Joelle has her Masters of Music in vocal performance from Northwestern University.

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LEAH DEXTER

MEZZO-SOPRANO

American mezzo-soprano Leah Dexter has earned acclaim for her “beautiful voice, great acting gifts, [and] outstanding musicianship” (Italian Tribune), and has performed leading and supporting roles with the Lyric Opera of Chicago, Sarasota Opera, Michigan Opera Theatre, Chicago Opera Theater, Arbor Opera Theater, Opera Theatre of St. Louis, Toledo Opera, New York Harlem Theater, Motor City Lyric Opera and Opera Festival of Rome, among many others. Ms. Dexter enjoys a strong relationship with Lyric Opera of Chicago's Lyric Unlimited program, which she first joined during the 2015–2016 season to create the role of Elder Constance in Matthew Aucoin's opera for children, *Second Nature*.

She rejoined Lyric Unlimited during the 2016–2017 season to cover the role of Rebecca Parker in Charlie Parker's *Yardbird*, and returned in the autumn of 2017 to cover the roles of Molly Brown, Nephthys, and Tahemet in *The Scorpions' Sting*. Fall of 2018, she re-joined the company for a tour of John Musto's *Rhoda* and the *Fossil Hunt* as the T-Rex and Cavewoman. Additionally, for the 2018-19 season, Ms. Dexter joined the roster of the Grant Park Festival Chorus performing at Millennium Park and continues her position as a regular member with the acclaimed Chicago Symphony Chorus. She will appear with Chicago Opera Theater, covering the role of Auntie in *The Scarlet Ibis*, and will debut with the University of Chicago Symphony Orchestra as alto soloist in Tippett's *A Child of Our Time*. Highlights of recent seasons include Annie in New York Harlem Theater's *Porgy and Bess* which toured Germany, a debut with Chicago Opera Theater as alto soloist in Ricky Ian Gordon's *A Coffin in Egypt*, a debut with Lyric Opera of Chicago as Annie in *Porgy and Bess*, a solo debut with the Cincinnati Pops Orchestra, and appearances with South Shore Opera as both Anna I and Anna II in Kurt Weill's *Seven Deadly Sins* and as Annina in *La traviata*. A native of Detroit, Ms. Dexter studied violin, cello, and ballet for many years and received both her Bachelor and Master of Music degrees from the University of Michigan.

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LAROB K. PAYTON

**BASS-BARITONE,
ARTISTIC DIRECTOR**

A native of Temple Hills, Maryland, Bass-Baritone, LaRob K. Payton grew up listening to his family sing in church and developed a love for the craft at an early age. He found a spirit in the Gospel songs he sang, passion in the R&B he heard, and nuance in the Classical music he studied. Payton aims to use his voice to connect people from different communities. He truly believes that, at the core of humanity, we long for connection and that music at its best is a means for intensifying levels of empathy. He has been afforded opportunities to create events in which people can experience passion and empathy by listening to music composed and performed by artists in diverging societies (Musical Activists of Chicago, "Fighting Racial Injustice"/ Scapi Magazine presents: Hearing in Color).

A graduate of DePaul University where he received a Bachelor's of Music in Vocal Performance, he has performed leading roles in DePaul Opera Theatre's main-stage productions including Pistola (Falstaff), Superintendent Budd (Albert Herring), Colline (La Boheme), Giove (La Calisto), and Thoas (Iphigenie en Tauride), and studied with world-renowned teachers, directors, and coaches, including Michael Sylvester, Marc Embree, Harry Silverstein, Steven Mosteller, and Loren E. Meeker. LaRob has had musical opportunities that include traveling to study language, culture and music in Urbania, Italy (Musica Nelle Marche) and San Miguel de Allende (Istituto de Bel Canto). He has performed with the DePaul Chamber Orchestra (Des Knaben Wunderhorn, Mahler), Chicago Summer Opera (Vater, Hansel und Gretel/Humperdinck) and been afforded many other opportunities to advance his vocal training and studies. LaRob continues to sing around the Chicago-area (William Ferris Chorale/North Shore Baptist Church) and hopes to gain healthy experience as an independent young artist and producer.

HEARING IN COLOR: SPIRITUALS & JUSTICE



ADRIAN DUNN

& THE ADRIAN DUNN SINGERS

Adrian Dunn, is an accomplished singer, composer and producer. He is the founder and CEO of HoperaWorld Entertainment. He has sang in the CCM Spoleto Opera Festival in Spoleto Italy and was nominated for “Best Music Director” from the Black Theater Alliance Awards for his work with HOPERA- A hip hop opera in 2010. He has opened for international hip hop recording artists such as The Roots and prepared and provided background vocals for numerous Pop, R&B and Gospel artists in the United States and abroad. He has also sang with the Chicago Symphony Chorus, Grant Park Symphony Chorus, and appeared as a vocalist with the Rob Parton Jazz Orchestra.

Mr. Dunn is currently principle conductor, composer, and executive Producer of HOPERA: A Hip Hop Opera which received critical acclaim in its Cleveland World premiere and Chicago Premiere performances in 2009. The Chicago Sun Times hails “Dunn’s score is hugely impressive...” “...Superb and powerfully sung”. He received a 2009 Mac Arthur Foundation and Richard Dreihaus Foundation award for his innovative work with HOPERA: a hip hop opera, and HOPERA Unleashed was released in 2011. He is director of Music and Arts at Grant AME Church, Chicago and recently released an album & songbook entitled "REVELATIONS." He holds a Bachelor of Music and Masters of Music in vocal performance from Roosevelt University and additional studies at the Sibelius Academy of Music, Helsinki Finland. The Adrian Dunn Singers is a group of 10 professional singers of diverse musical backgrounds based in Chicago. Members of the group have trained at some of the top conservatories & Universities in America. They recently performed at the Thomas Dorsey National Convention of Gospel Choirs & Choruses in Dallas and were recently included in the Art Institute of Chicago’s “Prayer ” exhibit. In addition to recording the Revelations Album, they have performed for the Payne Theological Seminary presidential inauguration in 2017 & provided music for the 2018 commencement exercises.

HEARING IN COLOR: SPIRITUALS & JUSTICE



LISA ZILBERMAN

PIANIST

Ms. Zilberman has been a frequent collaborator with the Hearing in Color concert series and has remained on the piano faculty of the Music Institute of Chicago since 2001.



CHICAGO SOLISTI

Their programs have presented works by notable 20th Century composers including Piazzolla, Golijov, Duke Ellington, William Grant Still, Jessie Montgomery, Stravinsky and Janacek in addition to chamber works by Beethoven, Mozart and Brahms.

Collaborative Pianist, Lisa Zilberman is a native of Odessa, Ukraine and can be seen performing and accompanying throughout greater Chicagoland. Ms. Zilberman attended the Stolyarsky School of Music for gifted children in Odessa and received both her Bachelor's and Master's degrees from DePaul University, where she studied with renowned pianists Dmitry Paperno and Eteri Andjaparidze. Ms. Zilberman has collaborated with artists currently performing at the Metropolitan Opera, the Lyric Opera of Chicago, the San Francisco Opera and the Royal Opera house. She has worked in the studios of Jane Bunnell, Marc Embree, Julia Falkner and Christopher Magiera. She frequently collaborates with the Chicago Chorale in the summer and was the language coach in the preparation of Chicago Opera Theater's 2018/19 production of *Iolanta*.

Chicago Solisti is comprised of artists from the metropolitan Chicago area. They've performed individually across the country as soloists, orchestral and chamber musicians and hold degrees in performance, composition and music education from the most prestigious institutions in the world. Our mission is to provide the cultural landscape of Chicago with creatively programmed and varied format concerts in addition to presenting standard repertoire with fresh perspective. After its inaugural season, Chicago Solisti quickly established itself as an ambitious and engaging chamber ensemble in the Chicagoland community. They've been featured in Kalamazoo's Milwood Series, Sunday Afternoon Live in Battle Creek among others.

HEARING IN COLOR: SPIRITUALS & JUSTICE

A NOTE FROM LAROB K. PAYTON

This afternoon we will explore music by African-American composers like Moses Hogan, Undine Smith-Moore, and Margaret Bonds who, despite the reality of life for blacks in America and abroad, fought to tell their stories through the art they created. This music is so powerful and moving yet, due to society's unfounded prejudice against artists of color, remains excluded from the popular canon.

Classical music's vastly Eurocentric background casts a shadow over songs like "Lord, How Come me Here?," a heart-wrenching arrangement by Evelyn Curenton that depicts the feeling of displacement and the struggle to find peace in captivity. William Grant Still's "Lyric Quartette (Musical Portraits of Three Friends)" remains overlooked in comparison to compositions by other instrumental composers like Gustav Mahler, yet through swaying melodies and dynamic intricacies Still effectively creates an atmosphere of hope and humanity.

Throughout the concert we will hear songs written—sometimes 50+ years ago—containing stories that unfortunately still ring true in today's society and some composed more recently that are a commentary of our not so distant past and how far we have to go. With racism and brutality against black/brown bodies reemerging from the shadows, we as a society, artists...as humans must make a conscious effort to heighten our levels of empathy so we are able to stand with our downtrodden siblings to fight against subjugation and discrimination near and far.

It is my hope that this concert inspires you to take action against bigotry in all forms. I hope each artist that comes forth to share their story causes you to think twice about the misrepresentation of black life in the media. I hope that the spirit found in this music transports and transforms you.

SPECIAL THANKS

The NSBC Outreach Committee, Becca and Sam Hartman-Pickerill, The Lilly Endowment's Young Adult Initiative, Garrett Evangelical Theological Seminary Young Adult Initiative, Adrian Dunn & The Adrian Dunn Singers, Susan & David Feiler, Pastor Michael Ware, Randall Fleer, NSBC Chancel Choir, Joelle Lamarre, Leah Dexter, Lisa Zilberman, Kyle Dickson & Chicago Solisti, Maureen Smith and Scapi Magazine, Amanda Neal, Carl Alexander, Chris Joyner, Daniel Johanson, Esther Rayo, Gabriel Walker, Ian Prichard, Josh Green, Mana Winkler, Megan Fletcher, Sarah Kozak, Tracie R. Davis

I would like to especially thank North Shore Baptist Church for the many years of support and love. This concert serves as gratitude to the congregation and leadership for being friends and allies.

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